



# മാലാഖാ ദൂത്

## ANGEL VOICE

**ST. MARY'S KNANAYA CATHOLIC FORANE CHURCH**  
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### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

◆ 7:30 AM MALAYALAM MASS

◆ 9:30 AM ENGLISH MASS

◆ 11:30 AM MALAYALAM SOLEMN MASS

### 🔍 Readings



Sunday December 29, 2024

- Genesis 21: 9 - 21
- 1 Samual 1: 21 - 28
- Galatians 4: 21 - 5: 1
- Matthew 2: 1 - 12

## VICAR'S MESSAGE

### EXPLORING THE BEAUTY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR REMODELED SANCTUARY

Dear Parish Family,

With hearts full of gratitude, I am delighted to share the beauty and inspiration behind the recent remodeling of our sanctuary. Every element has been thoughtfully designed, drawing from the sacred traditions of our faith and the rich symbolism of the Eastern Catholic Church. This remodeled space invites us into deeper worship and communion with God.

#### A Journey Rooted in Tradition

##### The Temple of Jerusalem

The Temple of Jerusalem was structured with three main sections:

1. **The Outer Court** – Open to all people, symbolizing preparation and inclusion.
2. **The Holy Place** – Reserved for priests, representing a deeper level of sacred encounter.
3. **The Holy of Holies** – The most sacred space, housing the Ark of the Covenant, where God's presence dwelled.

These divisions symbolized the progression from humanity's daily life into the sacred presence of God. This sacred layout has deeply influenced the architecture of Eastern Catholic Churches, reflecting a journey toward divine intimacy.

##### Eastern Catholic Church Design

Our church incorporates the traditional threefold design:

1. **Narthex (Entrance)** – The place of gathering and preparation to meet the Lord.
2. **Nave** – Representing our earthly journey, filled with prayer and worship.
3. **Sanctuary** – The heavenly space where the altar and divine mysteries reside.

Icons, an integral part of Eastern Catholic tradition, adorn the church as “windows to heaven,” guiding us to meditate on divine truths and offering glimpses of the heavenly realm.

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#### Features of the Remodeled Sanctuary at St. Mary's Knanaya Catholic Church

##### Entrance

The entrance has been beautifully paneled to signify the welcoming door of God's house, an invitation to step into His divine presence with an open heart.

## VICAR'S MESSAGE

### Central Aisle and Flooring

The central aisle features white and gold-lined tiles, representing the Church as our path leading us from earth to heaven. The flooring is designed with three distinct colors to symbolize earth, Jerusalem (church), and heaven.

### Ceiling Design

The sanctuary ceiling is adorned with a **golden finish**, representing the glory of heaven. The other parts of the church have a **white ceiling**, signifying earth redeemed and purified through Christ's salvation.

### Bema (Pulpit Area)

At the heart of the church is the **Bema**, designed with an image of Jesus raising His hands to preach and bless. From here, the priest, representing Jesus, proclaims the Gospel and offers spiritual guidance.

### Lector Stands

- The **Old Testament lectern** is adorned with an image of Moses holding the Ten Commandments and a Menorah with seven flames. The Menorah symbolizes the Holy Spirit, which enlightens and purifies.
- The **New Testament lectern**, used for readings (except the Gospels), features St. Paul holding a scroll of his writings, along with the flame of the Holy Spirit, symbolizing divine inspiration.

### Main Altar

The main altar is the heart of the sanctuary, featuring the **Last Supper**, where Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist. This sacred space reminds us of Christ's sacrifice and His command to "Do this in remembrance of Me." Beneath the altar is a statue of the **buried Jesus**, symbolizing His passion and tomb.

### Tabernacle and Crucifixion

The **tabernacle**, placed above the altar, rests in a radiant white background, representing purity and divine presence. Above it, a crucified statue of Jesus stands against a backdrop of **Golgotha**, reminding us of His ultimate sacrifice for humanity.

### Ceiling Icon of Ascension

The golden sanctuary ceiling features an icon of the Ascension of Jesus, which also symbolizes His second coming in glory, accompanied by angels and clouds.



## VICAR'S MESSAGE

### Symbolic Tables

- The table for bread preparation is adorned with an icon of a **Lamb with a flag of victory**, symbolizing Jesus as the Lamb of God who sacrificed Himself for our salvation.
- The table for wine preparation features a **Pelican**, an ancient symbol of Jesus' self-sacrifice, as pelicans were believed to break their hearts to feed their young.

### Statues and Icons

- The statues of **Mary and Joseph** remind us of their significant roles in Jesus' life and our own faith journey. Mary, our patron saint, intercedes for us as we walk with Christ.
  - The **image of Our Lady of Guadalupe**, a miraculous and divine image, emphasizes God's care and the maternal love of Mary.
  - The **Divine Mercy image**, painted from St. Faustina's vision, reminds us of Jesus' infinite mercy.
  - **St. Thomas touching Jesus' wounds**, located at the shrine of St. Jude and St. Antony, honors St. Thomas as the patron of the Syro-Malabar Church and highlights his declaration of faith: "My Lord and my God."
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### A Sacred Space for Worship and Reflection

Each element of our remodeled sanctuary is rich in symbolism, designed to reflect divine truths and immerse us in a heavenly atmosphere. Together, these sacred features inspire us to meditate, pray, and encounter God in a profound way.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who supported this project through their prayers, contributions, and hard work. May God abundantly bless us as we gather in this sacred space, our meeting place with Him.

With love and prayers,  
**Fr. Abraham Mutholath**





*St. Mary's Knanaya Catholic  
Forane Church Houston*

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**



★ TO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY★  
IN THE CITY OF DAVID  
A SAVIOR, WHO IS THE MESSIAH, THE LORD ★

LUKE 2 : 11



# SNAPSHOTS

## OUR REMODELED SANCTUARY





# SNAPSHOTS

## SENIORS' CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION





# SNAPSHOTS

## YOUTH MINISTRY FEAST PLANNING



**PRAYER WALL  
AT HOME -  
FIRST PRIZE:**

**JOSE & JANE  
CHAKKALACKAL**



# SNAPSHOTS

## CHRISTMAS CAROL AT CHURCH





# SNAPSHOTS

## CHRISTMAS CAROL AT CHURCH





# SNAPSHOTS

## CML CAROL AT NURSING HOME





## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Homily on Matthew 1:18-24 by Fr. Abraham Mutholath in Houston on December 22, 2024.](#)
- **Thanks to Koodarayogams for doing the Christmas Carol.**
- **Thanks to those who have made annual contribution this year. Others please do so. \$500 is the expected amount per year.**
- **Mission League is having a toy drive this month to give to children in need. Please bring them and deposit in the box of CML in the hallway.**
- **Youth Ministry Charity drive in December. Collecting clothes, non-perishable food items, household items, personal care items like soap, shampoos, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Donation boxes will be available at the hallway during December.**
- **You are invited to bring Christmas cake when you come for Christmas vigil Qurbana on December 24th and that will be distributed to all who come to the church that day.**
- **The bedridden people who like to have confession and communion please let us know. One of the priests will come to your house at your convenience to do the service.**
- **Christmas Vigil Mass will be at 5:00 PM in English and 7:00 P.M. in Malayalam. Holy Childhood will have a Live Nativity Show and Carol song at 6:40 PM.**
- **Only one Qurbana on Wednesday December 25th at 9:00 A.M. No evening Qurbana.**
- **Thursday, December 26th is the feast celebration of St. Stephen. We will celebrate on Sunday December 29th. Sponsors are welcome.**
- **Saturday, December 28th is the Holy Innocents feast. Blessings of children will be held after Holy Qurbana.**



## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Blessing of our remodeled sanctuary will be held at 7:00 P.M. prior to Christmas Vigil Qurbana.**
- **Youth Ministry will have a Christmas Tree with gifts after Christmas Vigil Qurbana.**
- **Thanks to everyone who cooperated with the auctions.**
- **Inauguration of Jubilee Year 2025 on January first after New Year Qurbana.**
- **Pilgrimage to Europe as part of Jubilee Year 2025, August 28 Thursday to September 12th Friday. Trip covers Holy Doors of four Basilicas in Rome, Italy, Vatican, France, Portugal, and Spain. Pius X, Padre Pio, St. John Maria Vianney, St. Antony, Papal audience, Turin, Assisi (St. Francis & St. Clara), Tombs of Popes, Pisa Tower. Total cost is \$4,200. There are 43 participants so far and hence we cannot accept registrations any more. If more people are interested, we shall add them to the waiting list.**





# WEDDING BANNS

- **Vince Joseph, son of Joseph and Valsamma Adyanoor from St. Kuriakose Knanaya Catholic Church, Kakkanad with Elizabeth Jose, daughter of Jose and Josephine Kallickal from this parish to be held on January 8, 2025. (Third Bann)**
- **Ashik Jomon son of Jomon and Bindhu Manumkal from St. Augustine's Knanaya Catholic Church, Karimkunnam with Alina Sabu, Daughter of Sabu and Jiji Chakalackal from this parish to be held on February 2, 2025. (Third Bann)**
- **Jobin K Joseph, son of Joseph and Betsy Koovappillil from Holy Family Knanaya Catholic Church Velloor with Roshni Macheril Sabuji, daughter of Sabuji and Elsy Poozhikunnel from this parish to be held on April 28, 2025. (First Bann)**



🕯️ **Share the Sweetness of Christmas!** 🍰



### Offering Cake for December 24th Evening Qurbana

As we gather to celebrate the joyous birth of Christ on **Tuesday, December 24th**, we invite you to share in the spirit of community and love by bringing **cakes** to enjoy with our parish family after the evening **Qurbana**.

#### How You Can Participate:

- 🍰 **Bake or Buy:** Feel free to bring a cake or two made in your own unique style.
- 📝 **Register Your Name:** Sign up at the **Reception Desk** to let us know you're participating.

Your thoughtful contribution will help us share the sweetness and joy of Christmas with everyone in our parish family. Let's come together to make this celebration truly special!

🎅 **Thank you for your generosity and cooperation.**

Wishing you a **Merry Christmas** filled with love, peace, and happiness.



## IMPORTANT DATES

### DECEMBER 2024

**DEC 25 WED: CHRISTMAS – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

**DEC 26 THU: FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN**

**DEC 27 FRI: FEAST OF ST. JOHN, THE APOSTLE**

**DEC 28 SAT: HOLY CHILDHOOD DAY (THE INFANTS' DAY)**

**DEC 29 SUN: FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

### JANUARY 2025

**JAN 1 WED: FEAST OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS**

**JAN 3 FRI: FEAST OF ST. CHAVARA KURIAKOSE ELIAS,  
THE DIVINE MOTHERHOOD OF MARY**

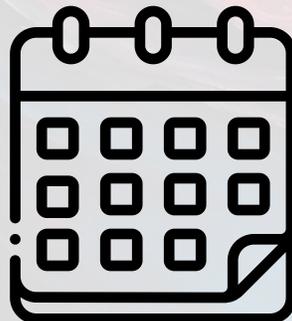
**JAN 5 SUN: FEAST OF ST. JOHN NEUMANN**

**JAN 6 MON: THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY**

**JAN 10 FRI: FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**JAN 14 TUE: FEAST OF ST. DEVASAHAYAM PILLAI**

**JAN 17 FRI: FEAST OF STS. PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES**





# CATECHISM CORNER

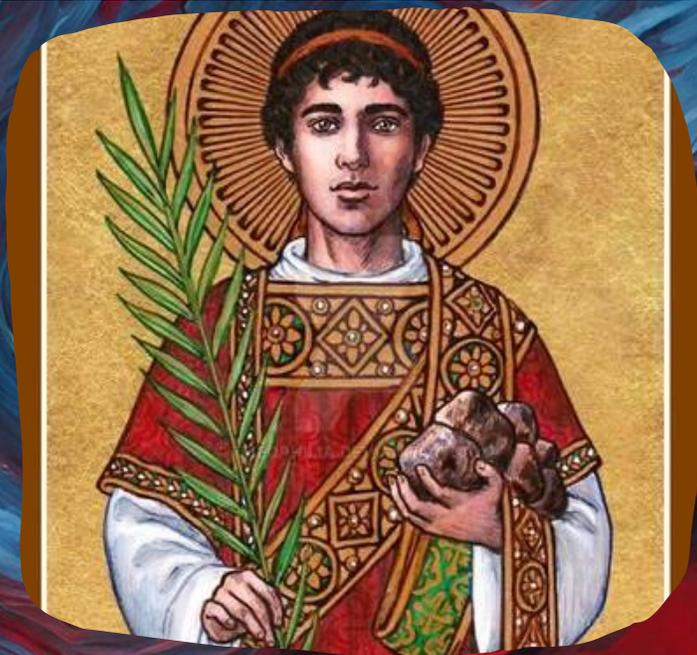
## UPDATES

NO CATECHISM ON DECEMBER 29  
CATECHISM WILL RESTART ON JANUARY 5

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

**ST. STEPHEN**  
**FEAST DAY:**  
**DECEMBER 26**

**PATRONAGE: DEACONS,  
BRICKLAYERS, AND  
STONEMASONS**



## BIBLE PASSAGE

## VERSE OF THE WEEK

**Psalm 28:7-The Lord is  
my strength and my  
shield; my heart trusts  
in Him, and I am helped.  
My heart leaps for joy,  
and with my song I  
praise Him..**

- **GENESIS 21:9-21**
- **1SAMUEL 1:21-28**
- **GALATIANS 4:21-5:1**
- **MATHEW 2;1-12**

# WEEKLY SCHEDULE

## QURBANA SCHEDULE

MON - FRI: 9:00 AM (MAL)  
7:00 PM (MAL)  
SATURDAY: 9:30 AM (MAL)  
SUNDAY: 7:30 AM (MAL)  
9:30 AM (ENG)  
11:30 AM (MAL - SOLEMN)

## CATECHISM

SUNDAY: 10:30 AM

## CONFESSION

MON - FRI: 6:00 PM -6:45 PM  
(ALSO ANYTIME UPON REQUEST)

## NOVENA (AFTER QURBANA)

TUESDAY: ST. ANTONY  
THURSDAY: ST. JUDE  
FIRST FRIDAY: SACRED HEART  
SATURDAY: B.V. MARY

## ADORATION

MON - FRI: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
SATURDAY: 8:30 AM- 9:30 AM  
FIRST FRIDAY: 8 PM TO 9 PM (MAL)  
THRID FRIDAY: 8 PM TO 9 PM (ENG)

## OFFICE HOURS

PLEASE CALL FOR APPOINTMENTS

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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